(e) the State Government has already handed over 240.06 acres of land for runway expansion. Action for inviting tenders has been initiated by AAI being nodal agency for execution of the project.

Purchase of Scorpene Submarines

†2791. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase six scorpene submarines from a French company namely D.C.N., C.S.F. Thomson company;

(b) whether Government are aware that this company has been supplying submarines to Pakistan since long and has registered a very bad record besides being involved in kickbacks; and

(c) if answers to part (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the reaction of Government thereto alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Government proposes to construct French designed Scorpene Submarines at Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai and is negotiating with M/s.Armaris—a French company in this regard. There is no proposal to purchase the Submarines from France.

(b) It is known that the French company has collaborated with Pakistan for the supply of Submarines but there is no concrete knowledge of its record in dealing with Pakistan or being involved in kickbacks.

(c) The French collaborator has been chosen on the basis of the design of the Submarine and its ability and competence in supplying associated equipment. Adequate safeguards including standard clauses, having their aim at preventing corrupt practices, will be included in the contract when signed.

Area of Coastline under Indian Navy

2792. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.